

Summer 6
CONSTITUTION, CANONS,

AND

REGULATIONS

OF THE

Protestant Episcopal Church

IN PENNSYLVANIA.

PHILADELPHIA:

T. K. & P. G. COLLINS, PRINTERS.

1855.

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CONSTITUTION,
CANONS AND REGULATIONS
OF THE
PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH
IN THE
DIOCESE OF PENNSYLVANIA.

PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF A COMMITTEE OF THE CONVENTION.

PHILADELPHIA:
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1855.

*Extract from the Journal of the Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the
Diocese of Pennsylvania, for the year 1855, p. 62.*

On motion of Mr. J. C. Cresson—

Resolved, That the subject of the publication of a new edition of the Constitution, Canons, and Regulations of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Pennsylvania, be referred to a Committee, with authority to take order, if they can do so without expense to the Convention.

The following Committee was appointed: JUDGE STROUD, JOHN C. CRESSON.

On motion, the Rev. Dr. HARE was added to the Committee.

CONSTITUTION, CANONS, &c.

**AN ACT of Association of the Clergy and Congregations of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the State of Pennsylvania.*

Whereas, By the late Revolution, the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of *America* is become independent of the ecclesiastical jurisdiction in *England*; in consequence whereof, it is necessary for the clergy and congregations of the said Church to associate themselves for maintaining uniformity in divine worship, for procuring the power of Ordination, and for establishing and maintaining a system of ecclesiastical government.

** Resolved*, That the President, the Rev. Dr. Magaw, the Rev. Mr. Campbell, Mr. Shippen, and Mr. Hand, be a committee to prepare an Act of Association of the Clergy and Congregations of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the State of Pennsylvania, who shall meet in convention.

The Committee was instructed to regard the following points as fundamentals for their proceedings, they having been unanimously agreed to by the Convention:—

First. That the clergy and lay deputies vote as two distinct orders.

Second. That a clergyman cannot vote as the representative of his particular church; but that a lay deputy or deputies be sent to represent each congregation.

Third. That each congregation be entitled to a vote; and that where two congregations are united, each congregation shall be entitled to a vote, and shall send a deputy or deputies.

Fourth. That the Convention meet annually, on such day as shall be declared in a law or rule, to be made by the next Convention for that purpose; and that the next meeting shall be held in Christ Church, Philadelphia, on Monday, the 22d day of May, 1786, at 11 o'clock A. M.

Fifth. That such of the members of the Convention as are met on the day of the annual meeting, shall be a quorum; in which quorum the votes of the majority shall be decisive.—*Journal of 1785*, p. 11.

And whereas, At a meeting of sundry elergymen and lay deputies from sundry eongregations of the Protestant Episeopal Church in this State, held in the eity of *Philadelphia*, on the 25th day of *May*, in the year of our Lord 1784, there was appointed a eommittee to eonfer and eorrespond with representatives from the Church in the other States, for the purpose of eonstituting an eeelesiastical government, agreeably to certain instructions or fundamental principles.*

And whereas, The said Committee, being assembled in the eity of *New York*, on the 6th and 7th days of *October*, in the same year, did coneur with elergymen and lay deputies from sundry States, in proposing a Convention from all the States, to be held in the eity of *Philadelphia*, on the *Tuesday* before the feast of *St. Michael* next ensuing, in order to unite in an eeelesiastical constitution, agreeably to certain fundamental principles expressed in the said proposal.†

* Which are as follows:—

First. That the Episcopal Church in these States is, and ought to be, independent of all foreign authority, ecclesiastical or civil.

Second. That it hath, and ought to have, in common with all other religious societies, full and exclusive powers to regulate the concerns of its own communion.

Third. That the doctrines of the gospel be maintained as now professed by the Church of *England*; and uniformity of worship be continued, as near as may be, to the Liturgy of the said Church.

Fourth. That the succession of the ministry be agreeable to the usage which requireth the three orders of bishops, priests, and deacons; that the rights and powers of the same respectively be ascertained; and that they be exercised according to reasonable laws to be duly made.

Fifth. That to make canons or laws, there be no other authority than that of a representative body of the clergy and laity conjointly.

Sixth. That no powers be delegated to a general ecclesiastical government, except such as cannot conveniently be exercised by the clergy and laity in their respective congregations.

† Which are as follows:—

First. That there be a General Convention of the Episcopal Church in the United States of *America*.

Second. That the Episcopal Church in each State send deputies to the Convention, consisting of clergy and laity.

Third. That associated congregations, in two or more States, may send deputies jointly.

Fourth. That the said Church shall maintain the doctrines of the gospel as now held by the Church of *England*, and shall adhere to the Liturgy of the said Church,

And whereas, The body which assembled as aforesaid in *New York* did recommend to the Church in the several States, that previously to the said intended meeting, they should organize or associate themselves, agreeably to such rules as they shall think proper :

It is therefore hereby determined and declared by the clergy who do now or who hereafter shall sign this act, and by the congregations who do now or who hereafter shall consent to this act, either by its being ratified by their respective vestries, or by its being signed by their deputies duly authorized, That the said clergy and congregations shall be called and known by the name of *The Protestant Episcopal Church in the State of Pennsylvania*.

And it is hereby further determined and declared by the said clergy and congregations, That there shall be a Convention of the said Church; which Convention shall consist of all the clergy of the same, and of lay deputies; and that all the acts and proceedings of said Convention shall be considered as the acts and proceedings of the Protestant Episcopal Church in this State: *Provided always*, That the same shall be consistent with the fundamental principles agreed on at the two aforesaid meetings in *Philadelphia* and *New York*.

as far as shall be consistent with the *American* Revolution, and the Constitutions of the respective States.

Fifth. That in every State where there shall be a bishop duly consecrated, and settled, he shall be considered as a member of the Convention, *ex officio*.

Sixth. That the clergy and laity, assembled in Convention, shall deliberate in one body, but shall vote separately, and the concurrence of both shall be necessary to give validity to every measure.

Seventh. That the first meeting of the Convention shall be at *Philadelphia*, the *Tuesday* before the feast of *St. Michael* next; to which it is hoped and earnestly desired, that the Episcopal Churches in the respective States will send their clerical and lay deputies, duly instructed and authorized to proceed on the necessary business herein proposed for their deliberation.

In compliance with the last article, the following persons are appointed, viz: *Clerical Deputies*—The Rev. Doctors White and Magaw, and the Rev. Messrs. Blackwell, Hutchins, and Campbell. *Lay Deputies*—Messrs. Richard Peters, Gerardus Clarkson, Samuel Powell, William Atlee, Jasper Yates, Stephen Chambers, Edward Hand, Thomas Heartly, John Clarke, Archibald McGrew, Plunket Fleeson, Edward Shippen, Joseph Swift, Andrew Doz, John Wood, Nicholas Jones, and Edward Duffield.

And it is hereby further determined and declared by the said clergy and congregations, That each congregation may send to the Convention a deputy or deputies; and where two or more congregations are united, they may send a deputy or deputies for each congregation; and no congregation may send a clergyman as their deputy; and each congregation represented in Convention shall have one vote.

And it is hereby further determined and declared by the said clergy and congregations, That the clergy and lay deputies in Convention shall deliberate in one body, but shall vote as two distinct orders, and that the concurrence of both orders shall be necessary to give validity to every measure; and such clergymen and lay deputies as shall at any time be duly assembled in Convention, shall be a quorum; and on every* question, the votes of a majority of those present of the two orders respectively, shall decide.

And it is hereby further determined and declared by the said clergy and congregations, That all such clergymen as shall hereafter be settled as the ministers of the congregations† ratifying this act, shall have the same privileges, and be subject to the same regulations, as the clergy now subscribing the same.

And it is hereby further determined and declared by the said clergy and congregations, That the Convention shall meet on *Monday*, the 22d day of *May*, in the year of our Lord, 1786, and forever after on such annual day, and at such other times, and at such places, as shall be fixed by future rules of the Convention.

And it is hereby further determined and declared by the said clergy and congregations, That if the clergy and congregations of any adjoining State or States, shall desire to unite with the Church in this State, agreeably to the fundamental principles established at the aforesaid meeting in *New York*, then the Convention shall have power to admit the said clergy and deputies from the congregations of such adjoining State or States, to have the same privileges, and to be subject to the same regulations as the clergy and congregations in this State.

* Compare Constitution VI., VII., and IX.

† Compare Journal of 1786, p. 14, and Journal of 1790, pp. 24, 25.

Done in Christ Church, in the city of Philadelphia, this 24th day of May, in the year of our Lord, 1785. Witness our hands, in ratification of the premises.*

WILLIAM WHITE, D.D., Rector of Christ Church and St. Peter's in Philadelphia.

SAMUEL MAGAW, D.D., Rector of St. Paul's Church, Philadelphia.

ROBERT BLACKWELL, Assistant Minister of Christ Church and St. Peter's, Philadelphia.

JOSEPH HUTCHINS, Rector of St. James', Lancaster.

JOHN CAMPBELL, Rector of the Episcopal churches of York and Huntingdon.

JOSEPH SWIFT, Deputy for Christ Church.

SAMUEL POWEL,
GERARDUS CLARKSON, } Deputies for St. Peter's Church.

PLUNKET FLEESON,
JOHN WOOD,
ANDREW DOZ, } Deputies for St. Paul's Church.

EDWARD HAND, Deputy for the congregation of St. James', Lancaster.

NICHOLAS JONES, Deputy for St. Gabriel's, Morlatten, Berks.

JOHN CAMPBELL, Deputy for the congregation of York and Huntingdon.

JOHN CROSBY, jun. }
JOHN SHAW, } Deputies for St. Paul's Church, Chester.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE ACT OF ASSOCIATION.

Whereas, Doubts have arisen whether, under the act of association, any alterations can be made in the book of Common Prayer and the administration of the Sacraments, and other rites and ceremonies of the Church, except such as became necessary in consequence of the late Revolution:

It is therefore hereby determined and declared, That further alterations may be made by the Convention, constituted by the

* The signing of those deputies who were sent to the Convention without written power, was deferred until such powers can be procured.

said act, provided only that "the main body and essentials" be preserved, and alterations made in such forms only as the Church of *England* hath herself acknowledged to be indifferent and alterable.

And it is hereby further determined and declared, That the power given by this supplement to the Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in this State, may, by the said Convention, be conveyed to a Convention of the said Church in the United States, or in such States as are willing to unite in a constitution of ecclesiastical government, if the same shall be judged most conducive to charity and uniformity of worship.

Done in *Christ Church*, in the city of *Philadelphia*, this 27th day of *May*, in the year of our Lord 1786. Witness our hands in ratification of the premises.

CONSTITUTION.

ADOPTED IN 1814, AND SINCE AMENDED.

WHEREAS, By an act of association agreed to and adopted in Convention on the 24th day of May, 1785, sundry of the Protestant Episcopal churches within this Commonwealth were united under the name of "The Protestant Episcopal Church in the State of Pennsylvania"—which association now embraces all those clergy and congregations who did at that time assent to, or have since assented to the same :

And whereas, Since that time, by General Conventions of the Protestant Episcopal churches within the United States, a constitution and canons have been formed for the government and discipline of the same, which recognize each State as constituting a district or diocese, with the right to the churches within the same to exercise a local government over themselves, which has been accordingly exercised by the Protestant Episcopal churches within the State of Pennsylvania, associated as aforesaid; and it being now deemed expedient more expressly to set forth the system of local government to be exercised within this diocese, the following, with the act of association, is declared to be the Constitution of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the State of Pennsylvania :—

I. This Church, as a constituent part of the Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States of America, accedes to, recognizes, and adopts the general Constitution of that Church, and acknowledges its authority accordingly.

II. There shall be a stated Convention of the Church in this State, at Philadelphia, on the first Tuesday in May, in every year,

unless a different time and place be fixed on by a preceding Convention.

III. The bishop shall have power to call a special Convention when he may judge it conducive to the good of the Church, or when applied to for that purpose by the standing committee; and in case of a vacancy in the Episcopal chair, the standing committee shall have power to call a special Convention.

*IV. The Convention shall be composed of clergymen and laymen. The bishop, and assistant bishop, if there be one, shall have a seat and vote in Convention. Every clergyman of the Church, of whatever order, being a settled minister of some parish within this State, or being a president, professor, tutor, or instructor in some college, academy, or seminary of learning, incorporated by law, or being a missionary under the direction of the ecclesiastical authority of this diocese, or a chaplain in the navy or army of the United States, or otherwise employed in the work of the ministry, according to the order of the Protestant Episcopal Church, and with the sanction of the ecclesiastical authority, shall be entitled to a seat and vote in Convention, if he has been actually and personally, as well as canonically, resident within this State for the space of six calendar months next before the meeting of the Convention, and has for the same period been employed in performing the duties of his station: *Provided*, That any temporary absence from the State by reason of sickness, and any such absence, not exceeding in the whole two calendar months in any one year, and any such absence with the written permission of the bishop of this diocese, or of the standing committee in case of a vacancy in the Episcopal chair, shall be taken into account in computing the said residence: *And provided also*, That no clergyman of advanced years or infirm health,† who has been once entitled to a seat in Convention, shall lose his right to a seat therein by reason of his having ceased to have charge of a parish, or to be in the

* This article was amended in 1824, 1829, 1838, 1854, and 1855.

† “*Resolved*, That no clergyman shall be entitled to a seat in any Convention on the ground of inability to discharge the duties of a parish on account of impaired health, unless such clergyman shall, previously to each Convention, have satisfied the ecclesiastical authority of the fact, and the nature and probable continuance of the disease.”—*Journal of 1850*, pp. 71-72.

service of a seminary of learning, or to be a missionary as aforesaid.

No church shall be admitted a member of this Convention, which does not, by its charter or articles of association, expressly accede to the constitution, canons, doctrines, discipline, and worship of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States, and to the constitution and canons of the Protestant Episcopal Church in this diocese.

Each regularly established Protestant Episcopal church in this State, now a member, or which shall hereafter be admitted a member of the Convention, may send to the Convention a lay deputy or deputies, not exceeding three in number, to be elected by the vestry of said church: *Provided*, That no person shall be competent to serve as deputy unless he has been a worshipper in the church he represents, six calendar months next before his election.

When two or more churches are united under one vestry, deputies may be sent from each church, subject to the proviso aforesaid.

The deputation from each church shall be entitled to one vote, and no more.

No deputation from any church shall be entitled to a vote at the same Convention at which the church shall be admitted as a member.

When any church which has been admitted a member of the Convention of this diocese shall, for three years, have made no parochial report to the same, no missionary report being made in its behalf, and, during the same period, shall neither have employed a clergyman as its parish minister, nor requested of the bishop to have the services of a missionary, the said church shall no longer have a right to send a deputy or deputies to the Convention; and it shall be the duty of the Convention to declare the same. But any such church shall again acquire that right, if, on its application, accompanied with a report of its condition satisfactory on the points herein mentioned, the Convention shall agree thereto: and this right shall take effect from and after the rising of the Convention so agreeing.

V. The bishop shall preside in the Convention; but in case of a vacancy or necessary absence, the members shall elect a president from among the clergy.

*VI. A secretary shall be chosen upon the assembling of the Annual Convention, from among the members thereof, who shall remain in office until the meeting of the next Convention. His duty shall be to take minutes of their proceedings, to preserve their journals and records, to attest the public acts of the body, and faithfully to deliver into the hands of his successor all books and papers relative to the concerns of the Convention, which may be in his possession. Such other officers also shall be appointed as the Convention may find occasion for, to remain in office for such time as they may direct.

All officers and committees appointed by ballot must, in order to their election, receive a majority of the whole number of votes cast at such election by each order: *Provided*, That there shall be no election, except of secretary and assistant secretary, unless there are present at the time a majority of the clerical members, and a majority of the lay representations, who shall have appeared during the session, and been admitted to seats; and such election, except that of the secretary and assistant secretary of the Convention, shall be held at five o'clock in the afternoon of the second day of the session: *And provided also*, That if no such majority of the clerical members and of the lay representations be present at that time, or if said elections be not completed, such elections shall be postponed until ten o'clock of the morning of the next day, when the same shall be proceeded in without regard to the number then present. And in all cases of a failure or omission to elect any officer or annual committee, the persons then in office, or belonging to the committee, shall continue in their station until others shall be chosen.

VII. The clergy and lay deputies in Convention shall deliberate in one body, and shall vote as such, except when it is required otherwise by five members. In such a case, the Convention shall vote as two distinct orders, and the concurrence of both orders shall be necessary to give validity to a measure; and such clergymen and lay deputies as shall at any time be duly assembled in Convention shall be a quorum; and on every question the votes of a majority of those present, or, if required by five, the votes of a majority of those present of the two orders respectively shall decide.

VIII. The standing committee and council of advice shall consist of ten members, five clerical and five lay members. At their first meeting, they shall elect one of their clerical members to be president, and another of their members to be secretary. They shall keep regular minutes of their proceedings, subject to the inspection of the Convention. Any three of the members (the whole having been summoned) shall be a quorum, except for such purposes as, agreeably to their own rules, may require a larger number. They may make rules of meeting and business, and alter or repeal them from time to time.

IX. The election of a bishop of this diocese shall be made in Convention in the following manner: The order of the clergy shall nominate and appoint by ballot some fit and qualified clergyman for that office, and if this appointment be approved of by the lay order, he shall be declared duly elected. In the above-mentioned nomination and appointment, a majority of each order shall determine a choice: *Provided*, That two-thirds of all the clergy entitled to votes be present, and two-thirds of all the congregations entitled to votes be represented, otherwise two-thirds of the votes of each order shall be necessary to determine a choice.

X. The mode of altering this constitution shall be as follows: A proposition for amendment shall be introduced in writing, and considered in the Convention, and, if approved of, shall lie over to the next Convention; and if again approved of in the next ensuing Convention, by a majority of the two orders voting thereon separately, the change shall take place, and the constitution so altered shall be valid and obligatory.

CANONS
OF THE
PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH
IN THE
DIOCESE OF PENNSYLVANIA.

ADOPTED IN 1829, AND SINCE AMENDED.

CANON I.

Of the Trial of a Clergyman, not being a Bishop.

SEC. I. The trial of a clergyman, not being a bishop, shall be, on a presentment in writing, specifying with clearness and certainty, as to time, place, and circumstance, the crime or misdemeanor, by violation of the canons, or otherwise, charged: the said presentment to be made to the bishop, either by the Convention, or by the vestry of the parish to which the accused belongs, or by any three presbyters of this diocese entitled to a seat in the Convention: the said vestry or presbyters pledging themselves to make good the accusation. If the presentment be made by the Convention, they shall by ballot appoint a committee to sign and prosecute the same.

SEC. II. Such presentment being made to the bishop, and being accompanied by a further statement in writing of the names of the witnesses, and of the purport of their evidence, and by such documentary evidence as is relied on, the bishop shall cause a copy of such presentment to be served upon the accused, by a summoner appointed by the bishop, and shall call upon him by written summons to show cause, at a day and place therein named, why a commissary should not be appointed as hereinafter set

forth : and upon the return of the summoner that he has served the same, and no sufficient cause to the contrary being shown, the bishop shall appoint a suitable person to be a commissary, who shall repair to the city or county where the crime or misdemeanor is alleged to have been committed ; and, having either then or previously appointed a convenient time and place, and given not less than fifteen days' notice thereof by a summoner appointed by the bishop to the party accused, and also to the chairman or a committee appointed by the Convention, or to either churchwarden of the vestry, or to any one of the three presbyters presenting, the commissary shall then and there proceed to examine the witnesses on both sides, carefully taking down their examinations in writing, which being approved by the witnesses shall be signed by them respectively : and, if it be required by either party, some person qualified by law to administer an oath or affirmation shall be requested to do so in his behalf : and the examinations so taken, with any documentary evidence certified by the commissary and inclosed under his seal, shall by him be delivered or transmitted to the bishop without delay ; whereupon further proceedings shall be taken, unless, upon satisfactory evidence of error or malpractice, the bishop shall deem it necessary to justice to order a further examination ; in which case the same or another commissary, as the bishop shall determine, shall be appointed as before, and with similar powers and duties : *Provided, nevertheless,* That before the trial the commissary shall issue a citation, with reasonable notice, to the respective witnesses, to attend at the time and place of trial ; and in case of their personal attendance, their testimony may, at the request of the party presenting, or party accused, or by order of the commissary and assessors, be taken anew orally and reduced to writing again ; but the non-attendance of the respective witnesses, shall not in any case be a ground for refusing to read such depositions as have been duly taken : *And provided also,* That if the party accused desire it, the examination of witnesses and trial shall be in public, and that said party shall be entitled to a copy of the evidence if he require it.

SEC. III. Either before the appointment of a commissary, or after a report made by him, the bishop shall have power to dismiss the presentment, and declare the accused party discharged,

if the accusation contained in it appears to him an insufficient cause of presentment in itself, or to be clearly unsupported by the evidence.

SEC. IV. Upon the report of the commissary being made to the bishop, and no further examination being ordered, nor the presentment dismissed by him as aforesaid, the standing committee shall nominate twelve presbyters of this diocese having a seat in the Convention, of whom the accused may choose four, or in case of his refusal or neglect so to do, the standing committee shall select four; and the presbyters so chosen shall be the assessors. And the commissary and assessors, having agreed upon some convenient time and place, and having caused not less than thirty days' written or printed notice thereof to be given to the party accused, and also to the chairman or a member of the committee appointed by the Convention, or to either church-warden of the vestry, or to any one of the three presbyters presenting, the said notice to be given by a summoner appointed by the bishop, shall then and there proceed to the trial, upon the evidence and report of the commissary, and upon such other evidence as may be produced; which new evidence shall be reduced to writing, and approved and signed by the witnesses respectively, as before. The commissary and assessors having deliberately considered the evidence, shall, within ten days after closing the same, declare in a written judgment signed by them, or by a majority of them, that the accused is guilty, or that he is not guilty of the charges laid in the presentment, in the order therein set forth; which judgment, with all the evidence received, shall be delivered forthwith to the bishop: *Provided always*, That the accused shall be allowed to be present at all the examinations of witnesses and other proceedings, whether held by the commissary, or by the commissary and assessors, and to offer explanations, or a defence of the acts with which he is charged: *And provided also*, That the matter of such explanations or defence shall be reduced to writing by the accused, and be presented with the evidence to the bishop.

SEC. V. If the accused shall neglect or refuse to appear before the commissary, when summoned according to Sec. 2, of this canon, the examination shall proceed as if he were present. And if the accused shall neglect or refuse to appear before the commissary and assessors (except for some reasonable cause, to

be judged of by them), when summoned according to Sec. 4, of this canon, and no defence be there made under his authority, they shall declare him to be in contumacy, and report the same to the bishop, and sentence of suspension from the ministry shall pass against him for contumacy; but the said sentence may be reversed by the bishop, if within three calendar months the accused shall tender himself ready, and accordingly appear to take his trial on the presentment: but if he shall not so tender himself before the expiration of the said three months, the sentence of degradation from the ministry for contumacy shall forthwith be pronounced by the bishop, and shall be publicly read in the churches.

SEC. VI. The accused, on his first appearance, whether before the bishop at the return of the summoner previous to the appointment of a commissary, or before the commissary, or before the commissary and assessors, shall be called on to say whether he is guilty or not guilty of the offence or offences charged against him. On his neglect or refusal to answer, the plea of *not guilty* shall be entered for him. And if he be found, or confess himself, guilty of the matters charged in the presentment, or any of them, the bishop shall pronounce the sentence according to the canons; but in case of a vacancy in the episcopate, the standing committee shall report the proceedings to the bishop of some other diocese, as near as may be to this, by whom the sentence according to the canons, may be pronounced: *Provided always*, That the bishop, upon satisfactory proof of error or mal-practice in the proceedings of the commissary and assessors, or on account of error in their judgment, either in law or fact, may, if he deems it necessary to justice, grant a new trial to the accused; in which case, new assessors shall be appointed, and the other proceedings be conducted as directed by Sec. 4, of this canon.

SEC. VII. The proceedings in the case being complete, according to the requisitions of the canon, the sentence or penalty pronounced by the bishop according to the canon, shall be final.

CANON II.

Of the Proceedings in the Trial of a Layman, after repulsion by the Minister from the Holy Communion.

If any person repelled from the Holy Communion, according to the rubric, shall allege to the bishop that injustice has been done, or if, notwithstanding he shall have professed himself ready and willing in truth and sincerity to comply with the requisitions expressed in the rubric, in order to be restored to the Holy Communion, his repulsion shall be continued, he may present his complaint in writing to the bishop, setting forth the grounds thereof, and desiring that he may be restored to the Communion. Whereupon, unless the bishop shall in a summary manner direct him to be restored, an inquiry and examination shall be made in manner following. The notice given to the bishop by the minister repelling, shall stand in the place of a presentment of the party repelled; and the proceedings thereon shall be the same as are before provided in the case of a presentment made against a clergyman, not being a bishop, after the report of the commissary, except that besides the clerical assessors, the bishop shall nominate twelve laymen of this diocese, of whom the accused may choose four, or in case of his neglect or refusal, the standing committee shall appoint four, and the four persons so chosen or appointed, with the four clerical assessors, to be chosen or appointed as aforesaid, having added one layman to their number, shall be the assessors, and proceed to the trial in like manner as is provided in the case of a clergyman, not being a bishop; and having heard and deliberately considered the allegations and testimony on either side, they, or a majority of them, shall declare in writing their judgment, whether the party presented has been rightfully repelled, according to the rubric, or not: and whether his repulsion ought or ought not to be continued; and shall forthwith report their judgment to the bishop; and unless the bishop shall see cause to order a rehearing of the case by the assessors, or, if desired by the party repelled, by other assessors to be nominated and chosen, or appointed in manner aforesaid, he shall communicate the judgment to the minister repelling, and to the party repelled, which shall be final and conclusive: *Pro-*

vided, That if the judgment shall direct a further continuance of the repulsion, it shall nevertheless be subject to all the conditions and provisions of the rubric.

CANON III.

Of taking the Depositions of Witnesses.

If, in any case, either of a clergyman, not being a bishop, or of a layman, the testimony of witnesses shall be requisite, whose attendance before the commissary or at the trial cannot, in the opinion of the bishop, be procured, their depositions shall be taken and reduced to writing, upon such notice to the party presenting or party accused, and under such other regulations as the bishop shall prescribe, and shall, when taken in conformity, be read in evidence, with the same effect as if taken by the commissary, or at the trial.

CANON IV.

Of Persons against whom Presentments are made, not to be found, or removed; and of the service of Notices or Citations.

SEC. I. If a presentment be duly made against a clergyman, not a bishop, and after reasonable diligence he cannot be found in this diocese, or has removed from it, and notice of the presentment cannot on that account be served on him, and return be made accordingly by the summoner, in such case, the bishop, with the advice of the standing committee, having considered the character of the accusation, and the probability of its truth, may suspend the accused from the exercise of all his ministerial functions. But such suspension shall be removed, if within three months the accused shall appear and accept service of a citation, returnable within thirty days. If the accused shall not so appear within twelve months, the bishop, with the consent of the standing committee, may pronounce sentence of degradation against him.

SEC. II. Every notice or citation to either party, required in consequence of a presentment, shall be directed to the summoner appointed for the occasion, according to the canons respectively; and return thereof shall be made thereon in writing; and the

leaving a copy at the last place of abode of the person to be cited, or delivering it to him in person, shall be deemed good service thereof.

CANON V.

Of Penalties.

SEC. I. If any clergyman of this Church, not a bishop, shall be guilty of crime or of misdemeanor, by violation of the canons, or otherwise, and shall be thereof duly convicted, or shall confess himself guilty, he shall be admonished by the bishop, or suspended from the ministry, or degraded therefrom, according to the character and circumstances of his offence.

SEC. II. After an accused clergyman, not a bishop, has been convicted by the commissary and assessors, the said commissary and assessors shall forthwith proceed to consider, and declare, in writing, and under their signatures, what in their opinion is the due punishment of the offence, of which the accused has been found guilty, having respect to the character and circumstances of the offence, whether admonition by the bishop, suspension, and for what period, or under what conditions; or degradation; and they, or a majority of them, being assembled for this purpose, shall not separate or adjourn until they have so declared their opinion of the punishment due; and their said declaration shall be forthwith delivered or transmitted to the bishop, together with their judgment of conviction, and the evidence in the cause.

SEC. III. If the bishop approve of the punishment so declared, he shall in writing give sentence accordingly; but if he do not approve of it, he shall, in like manner, impose such other less punishment hereby authorized, as he shall think justly due.

SEC. IV. If a layman repelled by his minister shall, after trial, be found guilty, his repulsion shall continue, subject to the conditions of the rubric.

SEC. V. If a clergyman, not a bishop, shall confess himself guilty on any presentment duly made, the bishop shall determine on his punishment, whether admonition, suspension, and for what term, and on what conditions, or degradation from the ministry. If a lay person, after appealing to the bishop, from the sentence of repulsion from the Holy Communion, shall, at any period

before or during investigation or trial, confess himself guilty of the offence or offences for which he was repelled, the bishop shall determine the duration of his repulsion, or the conditions on which it shall be removed: *Provided always*, and in all cases of repulsion from the Holy Communion, that if the person repelled be visited with extreme or mortal sickness, the minister of the parish, if satisfied that he is truly penitent, but not otherwise, may administer the Holy Communion, or authorize it to be administered to him before his death, though the term of repulsion be not expired.

SEC. VI. In every case of degradation from the ministry, the bishop who pronounces sentence shall, in addition to the provision of the general canons, without delay, cause the sentence of degradation to be published from every pulpit in this diocese, where there may be an officiating minister.

CANON VI.*

Of the Evidence of the Clerical Residence of Clergymen removing into this Diocese necessary to entitle them to seats in the Convention.

SEC. I. To qualify a clergyman coming from another State, district or diocese, for a seat in the Convention, it shall be necessary first to obtain from the bishop a written testimonial of his being received as a clergyman of this diocese. And to entitle him to such testimonial, he shall produce from the bishop or bishops, or if there be no bishop, from a majority of the clerical members of the standing committee or committees of the diocese or dioceses wherein he has resided during the last preceding three years, which committee or committees shall in all cases be duly convened, satisfactory written testimonials, signed by the said bishop or bishops, or by the majority of the clerical members of said standing committee or committees, that he has not been justly liable to evil report for error in religion or viciousness of life, during the three years last past; or if he come to this diocese from any State or district which has not acceded to the general constitution, the said testimonials shall be signed by three clergy-

* Altered in 1855.

men of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States; and if he be a deacon, the said testimonials shall be addressed to the bishop of this diocese; or if there be no bishop, to the standing committee thereof. And the bishop shall, moreover, be satisfied that such clergyman has been called to settle in some parish in this diocese, or is to be otherwise employed in the work of the ministry, according to the order of the Protestant Episcopal Church and with the sanction of the Ecclesiastical authority, and that he has come hither with that purpose and expectation; or that he is engaged as a professor, tutor, or instructor of youth in some college, academy, or other incorporated seminary of learning, or as a missionary, under the ecclesiastical authority of this diocese; or that he has been stationed within this diocese as a chaplain in the army or navy of the United States; and in such cases the bishop shall give the testimonial required: *Provided always*, That whenever the bishop shall deem it expedient, he may further inquire of the bishop, or if there be no bishop, of the standing committee of any diocese in which the said clergyman has previously resided, concerning his orderly compliance with the institutions and government of the Protestant Episcopal Church; and if the answer to the said inquiry shall specify acts contrary thereto, done by said clergyman, the bishop may withhold the said testimonial until he is satisfied of the good intentions in the premises, of the said clergyman for the future.

SEC. II. This testimonial shall be the evidence of the commencement of the canonical residence and right to a seat in the Convention, required by the constitution, as regards clergymen hereafter coming into this diocese.

CANON VII.*

Of the Standing Committee.

SEC. I. At every stated Convention, a Standing Committee, to consist of five of the clergy and five of the laity, shall be chosen by ballot, by the concurrent vote of the members of each order. And vacancies occurring by death or otherwise, in said commit-

* Altered in 1853. Journal, p. 54.

tee, shall be supplied by the concurrent vote of the remaining clerical members and lay members of the committee.

SEC. II. This committee shall have in special charge the care and investment of the Convention fund, and also of the fund for the support of the episcopate, whether arising from the legacy of the late Andrew Doz, Esq., or otherwise given in charge or trust to the Convention.

SEC. III. In case of a vacancy in the episcopate, the powers and duties to be performed by the bishop, as regards discipline, except the pronouncing sentence of deposition or degradation from the ministry, shall belong to, and be performed by the standing committee. In case of such vacancy, the standing committee shall also have power to act in the granting of testimonials to clergymen removing into this diocese, agreeably to the canons.

SEC. IV. In the case of the absence of the bishop of this diocese in foreign parts, expected to continue for six months or more, the bishop, before his departure, shall, with the consent of the standing committee, request the bishop of some neighboring diocese, or some other bishop or bishops, to perform the episcopal acts and duties pertaining to this diocese, during his absence; or if the bishop neglect or refuse to do so, the standing committee may do the same, at any time after his departure from the United States. All other acts and duties of the bishop being such as may be performed by the standing committee in case of a vacancy in the episcopate, shall be equally performed by them during any absence of the bishop, as aforesaid. And the Convention during said absence of the bishop, shall, at each meeting thereof, elect its president.

SEC. V. The record of all the proceedings on a presentment of a clergyman or layman shall be preserved by the standing committee; and for that purpose shall, after a final decision, be delivered to their secretary.

SEC. VI. The standing committee shall, before the meeting of each Annual Convention, prepare a report to be submitted thereto, of every church, a member of this Convention, which for three years has made no parochial report to the same, no missionary report being made in its behalf, and which, during the same period, has neither employed a clergyman, as its parish minister,

nor requested of the bishop to have the services of a missionary.*

CANON VIII.

Of the Celebration of Marriage.

No minister of this Church shall celebrate any marriage, without being satisfied that it is not forbidden by the law of God, or of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, or by the canons of the Church. And if both or either of the parties be minors, it shall also be necessary that the consent of the parents, guardians, master, or mistress (as the case may require), be first obtained, unless they live out of the United States, and that fact be known or proved to the minister; and that such consent be certified to him by some credible person or persons acquainted with them and the minor, or be otherwise sufficiently proved or known to him. Whereupon the minister, not knowing or having reason to believe that there is any lawful impediment, may, and if either of the parties be of his congregation, it shall be his duty to join them in marriage. The certificate aforesaid shall be in writing, if he requires it.

CANON IX.

Of Parochial Instruction.

Every minister of a parish shall encourage the formation of Sunday Schools, and the efficient prosecution of instruction in them, in conformity with the principles of the Protestant Episcopal Church. And he shall report the number of scholars and teachers in his annual parochial report.

CANON X.

Of Registers of Baptisms, Marriages and Deaths, and of Parochial Reports.

SEC. I. Each clergyman shall keep an account of all the baptisms, marriages and funerals solemnized by him in the discharge

* Standing Committee to appoint a Committee of Records. Journal of 1841, p. 23.

of his ministry, specifying the name and date of the birth of the child baptized, with the names of the parents and sponsors, the name of the adult baptized, the names of the parties married, and the name of the person buried; and also, the time when each rite was performed.

SEC. II. These entries shall, by the minister, or, if so ordered, by the vestry, by the clerk or sexton of the church, be recorded in a suitable book to be provided by the vestry, which shall be the church register, and shall belong to, and remain with the vestry, as a part of the Church records. And the minister of each parish shall also keep a list of all the communicants within his cure, as nearly as they can be ascertained; and, also, a list of the persons confirmed from time to time by the bishop.

* SEC. III. Every minister of a parish or parishes in this diocese, shall present or forward, at every Annual Convention, to the bishop, or, if there be no bishop, to the President of the Convention, a statement of the number of baptisms, marriages, funerals, and persons confirmed in his parish or parishes severally, since the last like report; and also, of the number of the communicants, distinguishing the additions, removals, and deaths since the last report; also, he shall add a statement of all other matters of fact, that may throw light on the state of his parish or parishes.

CANON XI.

Of the Evidence of Appointment of the Lay Deputies to the Convention.

The appointment of lay deputies to the Convention of this diocese shall be certified in writing by a warden, or two vestrymen, of the proper church; and the certificate shall state that the deputy, or each deputy named in it, if the certificate be for more than one, is, and has also been for not less than six months before the time of his election, a worshipper in the church or parish he is deputed to represent. And no other certificate or evidence of the appointment of any lay deputy or deputies to the Convention of this diocese shall be allowed or received. The certificate shall

* Minister to report, also, the property of the parish, and its indebtedness, his salary and arrears. Journal of 1849, p. 51. See, also. General Canons of 1853, xii., i.

be in duplicate, and one copy forwarded to the secretary of the Convention, the other given to the lay deputies. A copy of this canon shall be annually sent, by the secretary of the Convention, to every church in this diocese, with the notice of the meeting of the Convention.

CANON XII.*

A list to be made of the Ministers in this Diocese.

SEC. I. Within one week before the meeting of every Convention of this diocese, the bishop shall prepare, or cause to be prepared, a list of all the ministers of the Protestant Episcopal Church, canonically resident in this diocese, annexing the names of their respective cures or parishes, or of their stations as missionaries, or of the colleges, academies, or other seminaries of learning, incorporated, in which they are engaged, or in regard to those who are not engaged in parishes, missions, or institutions of learning, as above, their places of residence only. And such list, corrected as hereinafter mentioned, shall be laid before the Convention on the first day of meeting, and be appended to the Journal, and shall be transmitted to the secretary of every General Convention.

SEC. II. The list of the clergy of this diocese so prepared by the bishop, and by him amended, according to the changes that may occur, whether by death, ordination, discipline, or canonical removals from, or admissions into this diocese, shall be evidence of a clergyman's having a cure, or mission, or engagement in some seminary of general learning.† And no clergyman, while suspended from the ministry, shall have a place on said list.

SEC. III. The right of any clergyman of this diocese to a seat in the Convention shall, if disputed, be determined, according to the provisions of the constitution and canons, by the Convention itself; whether his name be inserted in the list aforesaid, or omitted.

SEC. IV. The bishop shall take such measures for notifying the admission of ministers into this diocese, as may prevent unwary

* Compare Constitution, iv., and Revised Regulations, ii. 2.

† Compare canon vi. 2.

and ignorant people from being imposed on by persons pretending to be authorized ministers of this church. And his certificate shall be the evidence of such admission.

SEC. V. It shall be the duty of the clergy to attend regularly at the meeting of every Convention. At the opening of the Convention their names shall be called over, and absentees noted, and at the ensuing Convention, these shall be required to give excuses for their absence; or if they continue absent, they shall send their excuses in writing: and if the excuse be deemed insufficient, or be entirely omitted, either shall be a good cause for presentment.

CANON XIII.

Of the Admission of a Church or Congregation into union with the Protestant Episcopal Church in this Diocese.

SEC. I. To entitle a church or congregation to admission into union with the Protestant Episcopal Church in this diocese, it shall be required that the vestry submit to the Convention the original articles of association; or if incorporated, their original charter, or a copy thereof, duly authenticated according to law: and that it shall appear therein, that such church or congregation accedes to the constitution, canons, doctrines, discipline and worship of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States, and to the constitution and canons of this diocese; and it shall appear further, that the said act of association or charter has been submitted to the bishop and standing committee, and by them respectively approved; or if the approbation of either the bishop or standing committee, or both, is withheld, he or they shall report to the Convention, with the articles of association or charter, the reasons of his or their disapprobation.

SEC. II. The Convention shall refer the whole matter and documents of cases of this kind, to a committee of three clerical, and three lay members of the same, to be appointed as soon after the organizing of the Convention as conveniently may be, who shall make report thereon to the Convention for its final determination.

CANON XIV.

Of supplying Vacant Congregations.

SEC. I. At every stated Convention, a committee of three clerical and three lay members shall be appointed by ballot, who, in concurrence with the bishop, or, in case of a vacancy, of the president of the standing committee, shall take order for supplying vacant congregations with occasional services; it being expected that the congregation so supplied will defray the expenses incident to such services. And it shall be the duty of the clergy, whether with or without parochial cures, having in the former case the consent of the proper vestries, to comply with the requisitions of the said committee in this behalf. And the committee shall report to every stated Convention an account of their proceedings.

SEC. II. When a parish becomes vacant, it shall be the duty of the vestry to give notice thereof to the bishop, or if there is no bishop, to the president of the standing committee, forthwith.

CANON XV.

Of Deputies to the General Convention.

SEC. I. Deputies to the General Convention shall be chosen by the concurrent ballot of the clergy and lay votes, at every Stated Convention of this diocese; and their appointment shall continue until the next Stated Convention, and until others are chosen in their places.

SEC. II. Should a vacancy occur by death, or otherwise, in the deputation to the General Convention, it shall be supplied by the concurrent vote of the remaining clerical and lay deputies.

SEC. III. Deputies to the General Convention may present an account of their expenses in their travel and attendance to the standing committee, who shall make a reasonable allowance for the same, to be paid out of the Convention Fund.

CANON XVI.

All former canons passed by the Convention of the Church in this diocese, are hereby repealed.

CANON XVII.*

SEC. I. The bishop and standing committee, or (if there be no bishop) the standing committee only, shall prepare a condensed report and tabular view of the state of the Church in this diocese, previously to the meeting of every General Convention, for the purpose of aiding the Committee on the State of the Church, appointed by the House of Clerical and Lay Deputies in drafting their report.

SEC. II. The tabular view aforesaid shall be appended to the Journal of the Annual Diocesan Convention, next previous to the General Convention for the use of which it shall have been made.

REVISED REGULATIONS.

ADOPTED IN 1829, AND SINCE AMENDED.

I.

Of the Opening of the Convention, &c.

1. No business shall be transacted on the day appointed for the meeting of the Convention, except what appertains to its being duly organized, and except the appointment of a Committee on Charters, and a Committee on Unfinished Business, and except the receiving of nominations to the different offices to be filled by the Convention.†

2. On the following day it shall proceed in the dispatch of business, when there shall be divine service, the administration

* Journ. 1853, p. 55. Compare General Canons of 1853, xii. 5.

† Journal of 1849, p. 58.

of the Holy Communion, and a sermon by one of the presbyters, to be appointed to this office by the bishop, which shall give place when the bishop delivers a sermon or charge.

3. A sermon preached at the opening of the Convention shall be at its entire disposal, to be published by its order, but not otherwise. Episcopal charges delivered before the Convention, shall be published by the same, without any motion in relation thereto.

4. The following shall be the rules of order in the proceedings, viz:—

1. The business of every day shall be introduced with a form of prayer prescribed by the bishop.

2. When the president takes the chair, no member shall continue standing, or shall afterwards stand up, unless to address the chair.

3. No member shall absent himself from the service of the house, unless he have leave, or be unable to attend.

4. When any member is about to speak in debate, or deliver any matter to the house, he shall rise from his seat, and, without advancing, shall, with due respect, address himself to the president, confining himself strictly to the point in debate.

5. No member shall speak more than twice in the same debate, without leave of the house.

6. A question being once determined, shall stand as the judgment of the house, and shall not again be drawn into debate, during the same session, unless with the consent of two-thirds of the house.

7. While the president is putting any question, no one shall hold private discourse, stand up, walk into, out of, or across the house, or read any book.

8. Every member who shall be in the house when any question is put, shall, on a division, be counted, unless he be particularly interested in the decision.

9. No motion shall be considered as before the house, unless it be seconded, and reduced to writing when required.

10. When any question is before the house, it shall be determined on before anything new is introduced, except the question for adjournment.

11. The question on a motion for adjournment shall be taken before any other, and without debate.

12. When the house is to rise, every member shall keep his seat until the President leave the chair.

13. These Revised Regulations and Rules of Order shall not, at any time, be suspended, unless by a vote of two-thirds of the members present; nor shall any of them be rescinded except upon one day's notice of an intention to move for their abolishment.

5. Order of the business of the Convention. (Added in 1855.)

FIRST DAY (TUESDAY).

1. Election of Secretary and Assistant Secretary.

2. Report of unfinished business by the Secretary of the last Convention. Journal 1854, p. 72.

3. Appointment of three Committees, viz: Committee on Charters, Committee on Claims of Clergymen to Seats, Committee on Claims of Deputies to Seats.

4. Reference of charters, and of claims to seats, to the appropriate committees.

5. Nominations to offices to be filled by the Convention.—Journal, 1849, p. 58.

6. Resolutions fixing the hours for meeting and for adjournment. The House, however, not to be considered as adjourned at any hour fixed by such resolutions, without a motion to this effect put and carried.

7. Resolutions respecting persons to be admitted to the sittings of the Convention.

SECOND DAY (WEDNESDAY).

1. Divine service.

2. Bishop's address.

3. Report of the Committee on Claims of Clergymen to Seats.

4. Report of the Committee on Claims of Deputies to Seats.

5. Elections, agreeably to the Constitution, at 5 o'clock P. M., any pending business to be at this time suspended by the presiding officer for this purpose. No business at this time to be proceeded with, except such as appertains to said elections.

6. Report of the Standing Committee of the Diocese.

7. Reports of the Treasurers of the Convention Fund, and the Episcopal Fund. Also, other Reports conveying information merely, or not likely to give rise to debate.

THIRD DAY, &c. (THURSDAY, &c.).

1. Call of names required by Penna. Canons, xii. 5.

2. Call of names required by Revised Regulations, 4.

3. Elections not previously completed. Time, 10 o'clock A. M.

4. Proposed alterations of the Constitution, Canons, or Revised Regulations.

5. Report of the Committee on Charters.

6. Report of Committees not named above.

7. Unfinished business of the previous Convention.

8. Miscellaneous business.

II.*

Of the Secretary of the Convention.

1. A Secretary shall be chosen at every Annual Convention, by ballot, after *viva voce* nominations. If but one person is nominated, the balloting shall be dispensed with. The Secretary shall continue in office until the meeting of the next Convention, and until his successor is chosen. He shall attend at the time and place appointed for the meeting of the Convention, shall receive

* Amended in 1844—Journal, pp. 33 and 34.

the testimonials of those who shall there attend as lay deputies, and shall record the names of those who present testimonials in the form prescribed by the canon. The insertion by the secretary, in the list so made by him, of the name of any person who has presented a testimonial of his appointment as a deputy, shall be *prima facie* evidence of the right of such a person to a seat; but as soon as the house is duly organized, a committee on elections shall be appointed, to whom the testimonials of lay deputies shall be referred.

There shall also be appointed by the Convention, in the same manner, an Assistant Secretary. If during the recess of the Convention a vacancy should occur in the office of secretary, the duties thereof shall devolve upon the assistant secretary, if there be one; if not, or if the assistant secretary shall die or resign, a secretary shall be appointed by the standing committee.

2. He shall give not less than one month's written notice of the time (the day and hour) appointed for the meeting of the Convention, to every clergyman within the diocese, according to a list, to be furnished by the bishop; and, as far as is practicable, he shall give a similar notice to the church wardens and vestrymen of every vacant congregation. And such notice shall be accompanied with a form of the certificate of the appointment of lay deputies.

3. On the printing of any pastoral letter of the house of bishops, he shall transmit the same to the clergy and to vacant churches, to be read to the congregation on some occasion of public worship, and also for general perusal by the members of the Church, under such reasonable regulations as expediency may require.

4. He shall transmit annually to each of the bishops, and to the secretary of every Diocesan Convention, a copy of the Journal.

5. He shall also transmit to every General Convention a certificate, to be signed by himself, or by the president of the Convention of this diocese, containing a list of the clergymen in this diocese, and the amount of funds paid, or secured to be paid (distinguishing them), to the General Theological Seminary, together with the nomination of trustees of that seminary: and also, a like certificate of the appointment of clerical and lay deputies.

6. Besides the duties before specified, he shall perform all others

usually appertaining to the office of secretary, or enjoined on him by the Convention.*

III.

Of the Treasurer of the Convention, and of a Treasurer of the Fund for the support of the Episcopate.

1. At every stated Convention there shall be chosen by ballot a Treasurer of the Convention, and a Treasurer of the fund for the support of the Episcopate, who shall respectively remain in office until the next stated Convention, and until successors are appointed. Their accounts shall be closed on the Tuesday preceding the day appointed for its meeting, and submitted to the standing committee, who shall examine and report thereon to the Convention.

2. In case of vacancy in either of these offices, or that of Secretary, it shall be supplied by the standing committee.

IV.

Of the Contributions for defraying the Expenses incurred or authorized by the Convention.

It is enjoined on every settled clergyman within the diocese, to have a collection made in his church in each year, in aid of the Convention Fund: at which time a statement shall be made, explaining the objects to which the fund is applied. The names of the parishes shall be called over at each Convention for the purpose of ascertaining from the lay deputations to what sums such collections have amounted in their respective churches—and mileage shall not be allowed to any clergyman attending the Convention, unless a collection for the said purpose has been made in his church since the preceding Convention.

The money so collected shall be applied to the payment of expenses incurred or authorized by the Convention.

* *Resolved*, That previous to the adjournment of the Convention, *sine die*, the rough minutes shall always be read and passed upon.—*Journal*, May, 1841, p. 34.

V.

Recommending the incorporation of Churches.

1. It is recommended that all the churches in this diocese should be incorporated according to law, and that in all cases where charters have not been obtained, applications be made to the Judges of the Supreme Court.

2. In order that such charters may conform to the essential principles of the Church, as regards doctrine, discipline, and worship, it is further recommended that they shall, before application to the judges, be laid before the bishop and standing committee for their examination and approbation; and in order to obtain as much uniformity in this behalf as local circumstances will admit, the following form of charter is recommended.*

VI.†

Of the Fund for the support of the Episcopate.

1. It is recommended to every settled clergyman, once in every year, to preach a sermon on the episcopal office, or on the apostolic succession, or on such other subject as to him shall seem best adapted to recommend this fund to support and patronage.

2. On every such occasion a contribution shall be received, for the sole and express purpose of making provision for the support of the episcopate.

3. The money so collected shall be forwarded to the treasurer of the fund, who shall keep an account of all moneys received, and report at every Stated Convention.

4. The income of the said fund shall be exclusively appropriated for the use of the bishop who shall have the city of Philadelphia within his diocese.

VII.

Of Vacant Churches.

It is earnestly recommended, that in every instance where a church is unprovided with a pastor, a standing subscription shall

* For this form of charter, see Appendix.

† Amended in 1833, Journal, p. 20.

be prepared, which, with the pew-rents, after defraying necessary repairs, shall be set apart as a fund for the support of a pastor, when duly elected and settled; and the profits and rents of glebes, so far as is consistent with the will of the donors, shall be applied in like manner, the capital and accumulating interest to be invested from time to time in public or good land securities.

VIII.

*Of the African Church of St. Thomas.**

It is hereby declared that the African Church of St. Thomas is not entitled to send a clergyman or deputies to the Convention, or to interfere with the general government of the Church, this condition being made in consideration of the peculiar circumstances of such church, at present.—*Journal, June, 1795.*

No church in this diocese, in like peculiar circumstances with the African Church of St. Thomas, shall be entitled to send a clergyman or deputies to the Convention, or to interfere with the general government of the Church.—*Journal, 1843, p. 33.*

* Included in the "List of the Congregations in this Diocese" "ordered (*Journal* of 1814, p. 15) to be inserted in the Appendix." Compare *Journal* of 1829, pp. 43, 44. Included also in the "List of the Congregations in this Diocese" appended to the *Journals* of 1822, 1823, 1824, 1825, 1826, and 1827. Omitted in the lists appended to the *Journals* of 1828, 1829, 1830, 1831, 1832, 1833, 1834, 1835, 1836, 1837, 1838, 1839, 1840, and 1841, but noticed below these lists as "not in union with the Convention." In Dr. Stevens' lists, appended in 1853 and 1854, inserted under the head "Not in union with the Convention."

RESOLUTIONS.

I.

Of the Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church, for the Advancement of Christianity in Pennsylvania.—Established A. D. 1812.

The constitution of the Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church for the Advancement of Christianity in Pennsylvania having been read, it was unanimously resolved, that this Convention have received with much pleasure, information of the establishment of said society, that they give their unqualified approbation to so laudable an institution, and promise to co-operate with them in promoting their pious and benevolent designs.—*Journal*, May, 1812.

II.

Of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States.—Established A. D. 1820.

This Convention heartily approves the pious design of the General Convention in the formation of said Society for missionary purposes, and hereby recommends to all the churches in this diocese, to further, by their contributions and their prayers, an object so immediately connected with the prosperity of the Episcopal Church in this country, and the enlargement of the Redeemer's Kingdom abroad.—*Journal*, May, 1822.

III.

Of the General Theological Seminary of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States.—Established A. D. 1817.

This Convention concurring with their venerable bishop in the interest which he has expressed upon the subject of the General Theological Seminary, do heartily recommend that institution to the zealous support

and fostering care of Episcopalians throughout this diocese, as being an important mean, under Divine Providence, of supplying a learned and efficient ministry for the promulgation of the doctrines and the preservation of the worship and discipline of the Protestant Episcopal Church.—*Journal*, May, 1824.

IV.

Of the Corporation for the relief of the Widows and Children of Clergymen in the Communion of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

It is recommended to the vestries of churches throughout the State, to consider the expediency of making provision for securing to the families of their respective ministers the benefit of the funds in the hands of "The Corporation for the relief," &c. &c., by paying in their behalf the annual contributions, required by the constitution of that Society:—*Journal*, May, 1825.

V.

Of the General Protestant Episcopal Sunday School Union.

This Convention highly approves of the formation of the General Protestant Episcopal Sunday School Union at the meeting of the General Convention in 1826, and heartily recommends it to the support and patronage of the members of the Church in this diocese.—*Journal*, May, 1828.

VI.

*Of the Bishop White Prayer Book Society.—Established
February 18, 1834.*

This Convention cordially approves of the formation of the "Bishop White Prayer Book Society," and commends it to the favorable regard, and the co-operation of the clergy and members of the Church in this diocese, as an important means of promoting the prosperity of the older parishes, and of greatly facilitating the formation of new congregations.—*Journal*, May, 1834, p. 58.

VII.

Association for Seamen.

This Convention, having heard with lively satisfaction from their bishop, in his late address, of the success of the "Churchmen's Mis-

sionary Association for Seamen of the Port of Philadelphia," do heartily recommend that institution to the zealous support and fostering care of Episcopalians throughout this diocese, as an important mean, under God, of promoting the welfare of an interesting and much neglected class of men.—*Journal of 1849*, p. 50.

APPENDIX.

*CHARTER OF INCORPORATION.

Whereas, the following named persons, citizens of this Commonwealth, viz :

have, together with other citizens, associated for the purpose of worshipping Almighty God, according to the faith and discipline of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America; and have for that purpose formed a congregation at _____ in _____ and are now desirous to be incorporated agreeably to the provisions of the Act of the General Assembly of Pennsylvania, entitled, "An Act to confer on certain associations of the citizens of this Commonwealth, the powers and immunities of corporations or bodies politic in law." They therefore declare the following to be the objects, articles, and conditions of their said association, agreeably to which they desire to be incorporated, viz :—

First. The name of the Corporation shall be "The Rector, Church-wardens, and Vestrymen of ———."

Second. This church acknowledges itself to be a member of, and to belong to the Protestant Episcopal Church in the State of Pennsylvania, and the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America. As such it accedes to, recognizes, and adopts the constitution, canons, doctrine, discipline, and worship of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the State of Pennsylvania, and of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States, and acknowledges their authority accordingly.

Any member of this Church or Corporation, who shall disclaim

or refuse conformity to the said authority, shall cease to be a member of this corporation, and shall not be elected, or vote in the election of vestrymen, or exercise any office or function in, concerning, or connected with the said Church or corporation.

Third. The rents and revenues of this corporation shall be, from time to time, applied for the maintenance and support of the rector, ministers, and officers of the said Church, and in the erection and necessary repairs of the church and churchyard, and parsonage house and other houses which now do, or hereafter shall belong to the said corporation, and to no other use and purpose whatsoever.

Fourth. The said corporation shall not, by deed, fine, or recovery, or by any other means, without the assent of the Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church of the State of Pennsylvania, or of the standing committee of the diocese, previously had and obtained, grant, alien, or otherwise dispose of any lands, messuages, tenements, or hereditaments in them vested, nor charge, nor incumber the same to any person or persons whomsoever.

Fifth. The rector of this Church shall be elected by the churchwardens and vestrymen, in such manner as the statutes and by-laws shall ordain. The vestry of the said Church shall consist of persons, members of the said Church, who shall continue in office for one year, and until others be chosen, and the election of such vestry shall be made every year on Easter Monday, by a majority of such members of the said Church as shall appear by the vestry books to have paid two successive years immediately preceeding the time of such election, for a pew or sitting in the said Church: *Provided*, That until the next Easter Monday after the expiration of five years from the date of this charter, members of the said Church, who shall in any way have contributed to the erection of the Church, or to the support of the rector or ministers thereof, shall be entitled to vote at the election of vestrymen: *And provided*, That in case of the failure to elect vestrymen on that day, the corporation shall not on that account be dissolved, but the election shall be holden on some other day, in such manner as the by-laws may prescribe.

Sixth. No person shall be the rector or assistant minister of this Church, unless he shall have had episcopal ordination, and unless he be in full standing with the Protestant Episcopal Church of

the State of Pennsylvania, and of the United States, and recognized as such by the bishop of this diocese, or in case of a vacancy in the episcopate, by the standing committee of the diocese.

Seventh. The said vestry shall have full power to choose their own officers; and they shall annually, at their first meeting after their election, choose one of their own number to be one church-warden, and the rector for the time being shall elect another of the said vestrymen to be the other church-warden of the said church. In case of a vacancy in the office of rector at the time of the election, the other church-warden shall also be chosen by the vestry, to remain until the election of a rector, or a new election of the vestry. And during such vacancy, the church-wardens for the time being, and vestrymen, shall have the same powers and authorities relating to the disposition of the rents and revenues of the said corporation, as are hereby vested in the rector, church-wardens, and vestrymen: *Provided always*, That it shall be the duty of the said church-wardens and vestrymen to elect another rector to supply the vacancy as soon as conveniently may be.

Eighth. The following named persons to be the church-wardens and vestrymen, to continue in office until the election on Easter Monday next, and until others be chosen, viz:—

The *ninth* article of the Charter of 1829 was rescinded by the following proceedings of the Convention of 1833. (See *Journal*, p. 55.)

“*Whereas*, it is understood by this Convention that the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania has refused to approve the charter of an Episcopal Church in this diocese, containing the ninth article of the form of Charter recommended by the fifth Revised Regulation,

Resolved, That this Convention withdraw their recommendation of the ninth article of the form of charter, referred to in the fifth Revised Regulation, and leave to each congregation to adopt, in case the corporation is dissolved, such provision for preserving the property for the use of a Protestant Episcopal Church, on the same principles, as they may deem expedient, and as may be consistent with law.”

And in 1839, the following resolution was adopted by the Convention. (See p. 30 of *Journal of 1839*.)

Resolved, That it be recommended to the different incorporated churches in the diocese, to pass a by-law, providing for the vesting of all the estate of the corporation, in case of its dissolution, in the Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church for the advancement of Christianity in Pennsylvania, to be held by it in trust for the benefit of a future congregation of members of the Church, which may be formed upon the same principles in the same neighborhood.

In 1852 (*Journal*, p. 24), the following Report was made by the standing committee.

The standing committee respectfully report to the Convention, that, in December last, they adopted and gave publicity to the following resolution, viz:—

Resolved, That in the recess of the Convention, it be recommended by this committee to churches in the diocese applying to the courts for charters of incorporation, in order to greater facility in procuring the same, to include therein the following clauses, viz: Add to Article III. "*Provided always*, That the clear yearly value or income of the real and personal estate held by the said Corporation shall not at any time exceed the sum of two thousand dollars."

Add to Article V. "*Provided always*, That the By-laws, Rules, and Ordinances of this Corporation shall not be repugnant to the constitution and laws of the United States, or of the Commonwealth, or to this instrument."

FORM OF THE CERTIFICATE FOR LAY DEPUTIES TO CONVENTION.

It is hereby certified, that at a meeting of the Vestry of _____ Church,
 in the county of _____, held on the _____ day of _____ 18 ,
 Mr. _____ was duly elected a lay deputy to the Convention of
 the Protestant Episcopal Church in the State of Pennsylvania, to be
 held in _____ on the _____ day of _____ next; and that the
 said deputy is now, and has also been for not less than the six calendar
 months next before his election, a worshipper in the said _____ Church.
 Dated this _____ of _____ 18 _____

} *Wardens.*

} *Vestrymen.*

N. B. If more than one deputy be chosen, a certificate in the above form may be given to each, or, which is better, the names of all may be included in one certificate, varying the language accordingly.

N. B. According to Canon XI., "no other certificate or evidence of the appointment of any lay deputy or deputies to the Convention of this Diocese, shall be allowed or received."

FORM OF PAROCHIAL REPORT.

*To the Right Rev.**Bishop of the Diocese of Pennsylvania.*

Report of the parish of _____ Church, in _____ in the
county of _____ for the year ending May 1st, 18 _____

CONGREGATION. Families, _____ ; Adults, _____ ; Children, _____ ; Total, _____ .

BAPTISMS. Adults, _____ ; Infants, _____ ; Total, _____ .

CONFIRMED, _____

COMMUNICANTS. Added, _____ ; Died or removed, _____ ; Present number, _____ .

MARRIAGES, _____ .

BURIALS, _____ .

PUBLIC SERVICES. On Sundays, _____ ; other days, _____ ; Total, _____ .

CHILDREN CATECHIZED, _____ ; Times, _____ .

SUNDAY SCHOOLS. Male, _____ ; Teachers, _____ ; Pupils, _____ .

“ Female, _____ ; Teachers, _____ ; Pupils, _____ .

Total, _____ . Schools, _____ ; Teachers, _____ ; Pupils, _____ .

BIBLE CLASSES, _____ ; Members, _____ .

COLLECTIONS. Episcopal Fund, \$ _____ ; Convention Fund, \$ _____ ; Soc. Adv. of
Christianity, \$ _____ ; Missionary and other purposes, \$ _____ ; Total, \$ _____ .

STATISTICS OF PARISH. See Journal of 1849—pp. 51-2, as follows:

Property other than the Church building and lot owned by the parish,

Amount of indebtedness of the Church of the parish,

Amount of salary the clergyman is entitled to receive,

Arrears of salary, if any,

AT A MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE DIOCESE OF PENNSYLVANIA, HELD JUNE 5, 1855, THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED:—

Resolved, That the committee appointed by the Convention on printing the Constitution, Canons, and Revised Regulations, be requested to have printed therewith the rules of this committee, and the paper entitled “Notice to persons who have in contemplation the ministry of the Protestant Episcopal Church.”

EDWARD OLMSTED, *Secretary*.

Rules of Order for the government of the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Pennsylvania, adopted June 5, 1855.

I. The Committee shall hold stated meetings on the first Thursday of every month at the Academy of the Protestant Episcopal Church.

II. The meetings of the Committee shall be opened with prayer.

III. The Committee shall meet on any summons of the Bishop notified to them by their Secretary.

IV. Other meetings may be called by order of the President when he thinks them necessary, or when applied to by any two members for that purpose.

V. In all cases when application is made to be recommended for admission as a candidate for holy orders, such application shall lie over for one month, unless two-thirds of the whole committee consent to the contrary; and there shall be laid before the Committee written evidence that notice has been given to the Bishop as required by § 1 of Canon VI. of 1847.

VI. In the case of Deacons desiring to be ordained to the priesthood within less than one year from their ordination to the Diaconate, the Standing Committee deem it due to the Bishop to await a notification from him that he has acceded to this desire.

VII. For drawing up certificates, and recommending persons for holy orders, there shall be a meeting of at least six members, the whole being duly summoned; and the votes of a majority of the whole Committee shall be necessary in order to the drawing and signing the certificates according to the general canons in such cases provided.

VIII. These rules shall not be altered, nor any new rules made, without the consent of a majority of the whole Committee.

MARCH 8, 1854.

Notice to persons who have in contemplation the ministry of the Protestant Episcopal Church.

Under the Canons of the General Convention, or their own rules, the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Pennsylvania, require from persons applying to them for the testimonials which are pre-requisite to CANDIDATESHIP for the Diaconate,

1. Written evidence that they have given to the Bishop notice of their intention. Canon VII., of 1853, Sect. 1.

2. A certificate from one Presbyter and four laymen. Canon VII., of 1853, Sect. 2.

3. When an abridgment of time, on the ground of having exercised the ministry in another denomination, is desired, two additional testimonials. Canon VII., of 1838, Sections 3 and 4.

From persons applying to them for the testimonials which are pre-requisite to ORDINATION to the *Diaconate*, the Standing Committee require:

1. The certificate of the ministry and vestry. Canon XV., of 1832, Sect. 2.

Or,

If the parish is without a minister (which circumstances must be attested), the above-mentioned certificate signed by the vestry alone. Canon XV., of 1832, Sect. 2.

Or,

If there is no vestry of the parish, or, from peculiar circumstances not affecting character, no possibility of procuring testimonials from the ministry and vestry of the parish (which facts must be attested), the cer-

tificate above mentioned, signed by twelve respectable Episcopalians. Canon XV., of 1832, Sections 2 and 3.

Or,

In certain cases, the above-mentioned certificate, altered as to time. Canon VII., of 1838, Sect. 4.

2. The certificate of a Presbyter. Canon XV., of 1832, Sect. 2.

3. In case of an individual desiring the consent of the Committee to his ordination before the expiration of his three years of candidateship, evidence that the Bishop deems such abridgment of time expedient. Canon VII., of 1853, Sect. 7.

From persons applying to them for the testimonials which are prerequisite to ORDINATION to the PRIESTHOOD, the Standing Committee require,

1 & 2. The first and second of the certificates which are mentioned above, as required from individuals applying for the testimonials prerequisite to ordination to the Diaconate, with the *exception* that the papers need cover only so much time as has intervened between the Deacon's ordination and his application for Priest's orders. Canon XV., of 1832, Sect. 5.

3. In the case of a Deacon desiring to be ordained to the Priesthood within less than one year from his ordination to the diaconate, a notification by the Bishop concerning the case. Canon VIII., of 1832. Resolution of Standing Committee, May 3, 1853.

4. Evidence of an academical degree or of a satisfactory examination by Presbyters, unless this evidence was filed with this Committee on the individual's applying for his first testimonials. Canon VII., of 1853, Sect. 3.

5. When a dispensation is desired, a certificate of extraordinary qualities, unless this certificate was filed with this Committee on the individual's applying for his first testimonials. Canon VII., of 1853, Sect. 4.

The Standing Committee meet statedly on the first Thursday of every month.

They require that a testimonial, coming from a vestry, bear on its face that it was subscribed in vestry-meeting.

They construe the Canons *strictly*.

Applications to be recommended for admission to candidateship for the Diaconate, lie over one month.



